



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs

SANDY RAYNOR

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

FRAUD DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS

PHOENIX – Toussaint Omar Walton, 35, of Compton, Calif., was sentenced here on March 21, 2005 to 15 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release with 100 hours of community service and fined \$3,000 by US District Judge James A. Teilborg.

Walton pleaded guilty on December 17, 2004 to Conspiracy to Fraudulently Use a Social Security Number, a violation of Title 18 US Code, Section 371. Walton previously admitted that on September 13, 2000, as part of an agreement with other individuals, he opened a checking account using a false social security number at a branch office of Bank of America in Phoenix.

On September 30 and October 1, 2000, Walton purchased \$8,020 worth of goods in the Phoenix area with 14 newly-issued checks from the fraudulent account. As part of the scheme to defraud the merchants, he withdrew \$2,230 of the \$2,300 in the bank account before any of the outstanding checks could be presented to the bank for payment. All of Walton's checks were returned for insufficient funds to the merchants, who suffered a loss on those checks. The goods obtained with the fraudulent checks were subsequently refunded for cash at the stores. Walton and his fellow conspirators caused a total loss in excess of \$120,000 to area merchants.

Judge Teilborg noted at the time of sentencing that Walton was not an organizer of the criminal activity but rather had been enticed by others at the opportunity to make money. Walton had suffered a disabling brain injury in 1999.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI and the Glendale Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASES NUMBER: CR-04-0373-007-PHX-JAT
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-051

###